

MINUTES
OF THE
FIFTY-NINTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
MIAMI ASSOCIATION
OF
REGULAR BAPTISTS.

HELD WITH THE CHURCH AT TAPSCOTT'S MEETING HOUSE,
SEPTEMBER 11TH, 12TH & 13TH, 1857.

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MINUTES

OF THE MIAMI ASSOCIATION, HELD WITH THE TAPSCOTT CHURCH,
SEPTEMBER 11TH, 12TH & 13TH, 1857.

1. Introductory Sermon by Eld. H. Stites, from the Epistle of Jude, last two verses.
2. The Letters from the several Churches were read, and their names enrolled, as follows :

CHURCHES.	MESSENGERS.	Rec'd by Baptism.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dismissed.	Excluded.	Deceased.	Total.	Money for Minutes	Time of Ch. Meeting.
<i>Elk Creek</i> ,.....	J. Hartley, S. Long, A. Ball,.....	8	4	..	3	..	2	44	\$1 60	4th.
<i>Bethel</i> ,.....	Eld. H. Stites, E. Locke, H. Rice, A. Lambert,..	1	..	..	1	1	2	45	2 00	3rd.
<i>Todd's Fork</i> ...	Wm. Stephens,	..	1	..	..	..	..	13	1 00	2nd.
<i>Tapscott's M. H.</i>	N. Clark, B. Potter, Isaac Moses, J. D. Molleson,	1	2	..	1	..	3	47	2 00	3rd.
<i>Mt. Pleasant</i> ,..	Samuel Lucas, James Baird,.	2	..	..	..	..	..	24	1 50	1st.
<i>Sugar Creek</i> ,...	M. Allen, W. Broadaway N. K. Tibbals,	..	2	..	1	..	..	47	2 50	4th.
<i>Winchester</i> , ...	Wm. M. Silvers Eld. Childers, Wm. Southard	..	..	..	..	1	1	24	1 00	3rd.
<i>West Lebanon</i> ,.	Jos. Taylor, Silas Davis, ..	..	..	..	..	1	1	24	1 00	3rd.
	Eld. Williams, J. S. Sellers, J. Wolfe,.....	..	1	..	1	..	2	59	3 00	2nd.
<i>Mt. Bethel</i> ,....	Eld. M. Morris,	..	..	..	..	..	1	15	1 00	2nd.
<i>Middle Run</i> , ...	E. Haines, W. Chenoweth G. Buckles,...	4	2	..	1	..	1	40	3 00	2nd.
		16	12		8	2	12	358	18 60	

The Messengers then repaired to the house, their names being enrolled as in the preceding table.

After prayer and praise by the Clerk, the Messengers names were called, and they proceeded to organize by choosing Eld. H. Stites, *Moderator*, who appointed Eld. S. Williams, *Clerk*.

1. The Rules of Decorum were then read.
2. Ministering brethren present, of our faith and order, invited to a seat in council.
3. Correspondence from sister Associations called for, and presented by their Messengers :

Scioto, by their Messengers, Elds. Johnson and Tussing.

Muskingum, by their Messenger, Eld S. C. Smith.

4. Eld. M. Morris appointed to write the Corresponding Letter, and present it to-morrow morning for inspection.
 5. Circular Letter, written by Eld. S. Williams, called for, read, and adopted.
 6. Appointed Elders G. Tussing, J. S. Johnson, Erasmus Thomas, and H. H. Rush, to preach on the Stand to-morrow.
 7. Appointed Messengers to Corresponding Associations, as follows : To *Scioto*, Eld H. Stites, Eld. S. Williams, J. D. Molle-son, and John Hartley. To *Muskingum*, Elder S. Williams.
 8. Appointed S. Long, M. Allen, and Joseph Taylor, to arrange the business for to-morrow.
 9. Adjourned until to-morrow, 9 o'clock A. M.
- Praise and prayer by Eld. J. S. Johnson

SATURDAY, 9 o'clock.

The Association convened, and after praise and prayer by Eld. S. C. Smith, proceeded to business, as follows :

1. The Messengers' names were called.
2. Bill of Arrangements presented, and made the order of the day.
3. Corresponding Letter, written by Eld. M. Morris, called for, read, and adopted.
4. Appointed Elders E. Thomas, S. C. Smith, and Benjamin Lampton, to preach on the Stand to-morrow.
5. Brother Nelson Clark was appointed to write the Circular Letter for next year.

6. Eld. M. Morris was appointed to preach the Introductory Sermon next year, and Eld. S. Williams in case of failure.

7. Appointed Eld. S. Williams to superintend the printing and distribution of the Minutes.

8. M. Allen, J. Taylor, and I. Moses, were appointed to receive and distribute the money for Minutes and Correspondence.

9. Appointed the next Association to meet with the Sugar Creek Church, in Centreville, Montgomery Co., Ohio, nine miles south of Dayton, on the Dayton and Lebanon turnpike, to commence at 10 o'clock A. M.

10. After prayer and praise by the Moderator, adjourned.

HEZEKIAH STITES, *Moderator*.

SAMUEL WILLIAMS, *Clerk*.

["The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." Unanimity of action prevailed, in transacting the business of the Association. The Spirit of the Lord was evidently with his servants, who proclaimed his testimony from the Stand to large and attentive congregations. "They that sow in tears, shall reap in joy." "Let Israel hope in the Lord, from henceforth and forever."

CLERK.]

MINISTERING BRETHREN PRESENT.

S. C. Smith,	Hezekiah Stites,	Thomas Childers,	J. S. Johnson,
George Tussing,	Hiram Hendren,	Erasmus Thomas,	H. H. Rush,
Edmund Stephens,	Benj. Lampton,	Mahlon Morris,	S. Williams.

CIRCULAR LETTER.

To the Churches composing the Miami Association :

BELOVED BRETHREN IN THE LORD : Once more we address you by this our Circular Letter, as pilgrims and strangers on earth, traveling to the land of rest which the God of Israel has promised to his poor and afflicted people. While Science is unfolding her rich stores, and the wisdom of man is making many valuable improvements in the things that belong to this dying world, the religion of our Lord, like its eternal author, remains "the same yesterday, to-day, and forever." The Lord's plan of salvation cannot be improved, for Infinite Wisdom devised it, and Omnipotence will execute it. On the day of Pentecost, the Kingdom of Messiah was set up in its visible order. We, professing to be followers of the Lord Jesus, should pay strict attention to that order, as our pattern in all things pertaining to our faith and practice. The preachers who officiated that day as the ministers of the Lord, were called and qualified by the Lord of the harvest, for the arduous duties in which they were engaged. No college of men had prepared them for the work ; no missionary society had assigned them the field of their labor. Let us, therefore, brethren, follow the divine pattern, and pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his vineyard ; and let us not look to the schools of men for preachers. Paul went to school to Gamaliel, but he did not become acquainted with Jesus there. Hear what he said on that subject : "I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me, is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." But what did those men preach ? They preached that all men were the creatures of God's moral government, and were accountable to

God for their conduct. For, said Paul, "We know, that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law; that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." They called upon the murderers of Jesus, and the worshippers of idols, together with all men everywhere to **REPENT**. They did not make void the law through faith. By preaching the law, they taught that all men had gone out of the way, and had become the captives of Satan, and the servants of sin; and, therefore, by the deeds of the law there could be no flesh justified in the sight of God. But thanks be to God, that while "by the law is the knowledge of sin," that life and immortality are brought to light through the Gospel. The Gospel unfolds the everlasting love of God toward his people—his unconditional choice of them in Christ Jesus before the world began, that they should be holy and without blame before him in love. But as God's elect children were sinners, and by nature children of wrath, even as others, Jesus, their surety in the new covenant, (who *was* and *is* one with the Father,) was made of a woman, made under the law to redeem them from its curse; and that he did when he bowed his head on Calvary, and cried "It is finished." All their sins, past, present, and to come, were then put away by the sacrifice of himself: for, the apostle saith, "For by one offering hath he perfected forever them that are sanctified." But, notwithstanding that Jesus had paid all their debts, and had satisfied the claims of the justice and law of God, they were in nature still held in bondage by the devil, but did not know that they were slaves, but were boasting of their liberty, being blinded by the god of this world—the prince of the power of the air. "But thus saith the Lord, even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children." Isaiah xlix. 25. Thus, in the appointed time of God, they are called out of darkness into his marvellous light. Well might the Apostle call it "*marvellous light*," for it is truly astonishing. How in that *light* are they astonished at themselves. Slaves of the devil—rebels against God their creator—low down in a horrible pit—ready to perish in the land of Assyria—outcasts in the land of Egypt—having no hope, and without God in the world. And the gloom and horror of the second death gathering around them. But, in that light, mark the

change of scenery ! All other wonders are now eclipsed by the appearing of the "Wonderful Counsellor," the "Man of Sorrows," "The Lamb of God," the anti-typical Joseph. Jesus now presents to the poor sinner's view, his bleeding hands, and feet, and side, and temples crowned with thorns ; and says to the sinner, all this I suffered for you, that you might live when death itself is dead, and reign with me in glory.

"Mine is an unchanging love,
Higher than the heights above ;
Deeper than the depth beneath,
Free and faithful, strong as death."

The enquiry of the enraptured soul now is, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do ?" And the answer is, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." On the day of Pentecost, we read, "Then they which gladly received his word were baptized ;" "and they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine, and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers." Brethren, let us follow the Captain of our Salvation, and then we shall always be right, and have no cause to be ashamed. The Lord is reviving his work in some of our churches, and we hope that a better time for Zion is near at hand. Walk in love, as dear children. Make not a man an offender for a word. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem. "And hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ ; as obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance ; but as He which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation ; because it is written, be ye holy ; for I am holy."

"The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you."

CORRESPONDING LETTER.

*The Miami Regular Baptist Association, to the several Associations
with whom she corresponds, sendeth Christian Salutation :*

DEARLY BELOVED BRETHREN: Through the tender mercies of the Lord we are permitted to meet again as an Association. The Churches composing our body are in peace and fellowship with each other, and some of them have been refreshed with the outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord, and some additions by baptism have been received by some of our churches. Our present session has been *unusually* pleasant. Fellowship and brotherly love abounded among us. Your Messengers came to us in the fulness of the blessings of the Gospel of Christ; for which we desire a continuance of your friendly correspondence.

“And now unto Him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to the only wise God our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”